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INFORMATION REPORT

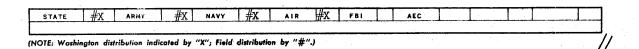
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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT		
SUBJECT	The State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, Pruszkow	DATE DISTR. 26 November 1954		
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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW



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		CONFIDENTIAL	REPORT		
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- 1. The State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders (Panstwowy Szpital dla Nerwowo i Psychicznie Chorych) in Pruszkow (N 52-10, E 20-50) was one of the oldest and largest mental hospitals in Poland. It was built in 1880 and its facilities were not adequately adapted to the demands of modern psychiatry. Only four new buildings had been added since its founding. They were added sometime in the 1930's. The hospital was situated in the northeastern part of Pruszkow (population about 15,000) in the suburb of Tworki from which it acquired the name under which it was most commonly known the Tworki Hospital. For pinpoint location see Enclosure 1.7
- 2. The hospital, with its surrounding gardens and buildings, occupied an area of approximately 40 ha. For a detailed description, see sketch, Enclosure 2.7 In addition to the grounds, the hospital had a farm and large fish ponds attached to it. In 1945 the former Pecice estate was added to the farm. Management of the farm and the fisheries was rather poor. Agricultural products from the farm were used by the hospital; the fish were sold to the fishing enterprise in Warsaw. About 70 patients were usually employed as farm laborers, in addition to the permanent employees.
- In addition to the State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, the hospital compound housed the Psychiatric Clinic of the Warsaw Medical Academy and the Psychoneurological Institute².

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- 4. The State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders was subordinate to the Department of Health of the National Council of the Warsaw Voivodship (Wydzial Zdrowia Rady Narodowej Wojewodztwa Warszawskiego). The hospital employed approximately 400 professional and administrative personnel. Included were 28 medical doctors, of which 18 were psychiatrists, and auxiliary personnel such as ward attendants, psychiatric social assistants, nurses, administrative and technical personnel, and laborers. There were always between 1,100 and 1,200 patients in the hospital.
- 5. The administrative setup of the hospital was as follows: For chart see Enclosure 3.7
 - a. The director of the hospital was responsible for administrative and medical matters. He had one secretary. Directly subordinate to him were three vice-directors, the doctor on duty, the chief male nurse, the hospital office, the heads of various hospital sections, and the visiting specialists. The dental office, the X-ray laboratory, the pharmacy, the dispensary, and other such general facilities were also under his direct administration.
 - b. A consultation board called the Medical Conference (Konferencja Lekarska) assisted the director in his work. This board met twice a week under the chairmanship of the director and dealt with important medical matters regarding diagnosis and treatment of patients. It also issued medical certificates for courts of law and sometimes discussed administrative and personnel matters. All medical doctors always attended. When matters pertaining to the auxiliary personnel listed above, were to be discussed, the chief nurse, the social psychiatric assistants, and the political vice-director also attended. Other activities carried on at board meetings were: the demonstration of difficult cases; the distribution of official correspondence and incoming mail of patients to the section heads. Official correspondence pertaining to a particular patient was answered by the doctor in charge of the patient and signed by the director. The director also signed all certificates for courts of law.
 - c. The political vice-director was responsible for seeing that the Party line was followed, and for Party activities. He organized all political and social meetings, gave opinions on personnel matters such as promotions and punishments, resolved among staff employees, and dealt with the complaints of patients.
 - d. The administrative vice-director was in charge of administrative matters and the management of the hospital. Directly subordinate to him were the:
 - (1) Technical Section which was responsible for the maintenance and repair of buildings, for water and electricity supply, and for equipment. This section had an office and various workshops under its administration which included a lock-smith shop, a glaziery, and a woodworking shop. It was also responsible for all stores of technical supplies. Artisans were in charge of the workshops but the majority of the workers were patients.

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Those patients who had no beds slept on matresses on the floor, often with two patients under one blanket. There was an inadequate number of auxiliary personnel in the section: two social psychiatric assistants, three or four nurses, and about 30 ward attendants (one for every six or seven beds).

- b. Pavilion II housed the psychiatric section for women. The surgery, X-ray laboratory, and dental office were also located in this building. Like the men's section the psychiatric section for women was divided into two subsections.
 - (1) One, under Dr. M. JAKUBIUK and two assistant doctors, consisted of:
 - (a) An observation ward for restless patients which contained about 30 beds and usually had about 35 patients.
 - (b) A sick ward with about 55 beds (usually about 60 patients).
 - (2) The second subsection, under Dr. B. ALAPIN and two assistant doctors, consisted of:
 - (a) An observation ward for quiet patients with about 45 beds (usually about 55 patients).
 - (b) One ward for patients receiving insulin shock with about 55 beds. There was an adequate number of beds in this ward for the number of patients.
 - (c) One ward for patients who were well enough to work on the farm, in the workshops etc. This ward had about 110 beds and usually 150 patients.

The number of auxiliary personnel in the psychiatric section for women was about the same as in the psychiatric section for men.

- c. Pavilion V housed the neurotic section. This section was under Dr. J. KWIATKOWSKA and one assistant doctor. It had two wards. One ward was for men, had 20 beds, and was on the first floor. The ward for women was on the second floor and had 30 beds. There were fewer attendants in these two wards because the patients were self-admitted and such patients did not require constant observation. They were allowed to go into the hospital gardens unattended.
- d. Pavilion VII housed the section for working patients. This section consisted a men's ward under Dr. LUNIEWSKA with about 100 beds and a women's ward under Dr. RYNIEWICZ with about 60 beds. The patients in this section did not receive the usual treatments. Most of them were employed in the garden, on the farm, in the workshops, etc. and were allowed to go to work either individually or in groups, but unattended. In addition to those patients housed in Pavilion VII, there were 40 male patients who were permanently employed by the hospital and who lived on the Pecice estate. These were two social psychiatric assistants at Pecice and about 10 ward attendants. The doctor visited these patients once a week.
- e. Pavilion VIII housed the psychiatric section for children. The section, under Dr. H. AMBRAMOWICE, had about 30 beds and had been transferred from the Central Psychiatric Consultation Station in Warsaw in April 1954.

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- f. Pavilion IX housed the neurological section under Dr. STEPIEN and five assistants. This section had one ward for men and one for women, each of which contained about 30 beds. There was a larger number of attendants in this section than in other sections because most of the patients were kept in bed and required constant attention. Rooms for physical therapy and for diathermy were located in the basement of Pavilion IX. An apparatus for testing metabolism was also located there.
- 7. In addition to the staff doctors employed in the various sections of the State Hospital, there were three visiting specialists:
 - a. A surgeon who performed minor operations every day from 0800 to 1000 hours in the surgery of Pavilion II. When a serious operation was necessary, the patient was sent to the county hospital in Pruszkow. (A ward attendant accompanied the patient when it was necessary.)
 - A doctor of internal medicine who came to the hospital twice a week.
 - c. An ear, nose, and throat specialist who also came to the hospital twice a week.

When a gynecologist was needed, one was called from the dispensary in Pruszkow.

- 8. The following facilities were also available at the State Hospital:
 - a. A dental office.
 - b. An X-ray laboratory (for X-ray treatment, not for photographs).
 - c. Laboratories under a graduate chemist and three laboratory technicians. The laboratories occupied three rooms and contained equipment necessary for testing blood, urine, spinal fluid, excrement, and saliva.
 - d. A pharmacy under a pharmacologist, KULESZYNA, and two assistants. Medicaments were issued on prescriptions of the doctors in charge of sections; no drugs or medicaments were issued for staff employees.
 - e. An autopsy room with two tables and a mortuary which would accommodate six bodies. An average of 10 to 15 patients died monthly and an autopsy was performed on each one.
- 9. A dispensary for outpatients was attached to the State Hospital and was under Dr. KWIATKOWSKA, a psychiatrist, and Dr. J. KAHL-KUNSTEDTER, a neurologist. The dispensary was open three days a week from 1400 to 1800 hours.
- 10. There were two libraries at the State Hospital. The one for doctors was well-supplied with mostly pre-World War II medical books. The other library was for patients.
- 11. Most rooms in the hospital sections were large and could accommodate from 20 to 25 beds. (There were however, from two to five rooms with three to five beds.) For this reason it was difficult to isolate noisy and restless patients (most of whom were women) from severly ill persons. The furniture was simple. Beds, mattresses, and some blankets were of post-war UNRRA supplies. The remainder were of Polish production. There were few chairs; benches were used for the most part and only the smaller rooms had bed tables.

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- 12. There were only one or two changes of bed and personal linen. Each section had its own linen and was responsible for sending it to the laundry, inspecting it on return, and sending it to the repair shop when necessary. This caused temporary shortages. Unusable items could only be replaced twice a year. There were no surplus mattresses. When it was necessary to use one on the floor, a section of a mattress was taken from a bed and utilized for this purpose.
- 13. The buildings were old but solid with floors of inlaid wood. There was not enough money for proper maintenance; for example the buildings were painted inside every three years only. It was difficult to maintain proper hygienic standards because: there was only one electric vacuum cleaner for the entire hospital, there were water shortages, breakdowns in the water system, and no central heating (old tile stoves were used). In addition there were not enough dustbins; the dustbins were not emptied often enough; there were many miceHot water was only available in the bathrooms and not every day. An example of poor maintenance was the breakdown of the internal telephone system in 1953 and the installation of new equipment one year later in some pavilions only.
- 14. The hospital kitchen was old and when built was designed to serve about 800 patients. By 1954 the shortage of space was acute. In that year the kitchen served, with the addition of some new kettles, daily about 1,600 lunches. The stealing of food by kitchen personnel and unlawful use of it by ward attendants was common. Those staff employees of the hospital who ate in the hospital canteen (serviced by this kitchen) had to pay 4.50 zlotys for a meal but employees of the Psychiatric Clinic had to pay 6.00 zlotys.

16. Since 1952 each mental hospital in Poland had been assigned a specific district from which to draw its patients. The State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders in Pruszkow served an area west of the Vistula River, including that part of Warsaw and part of the Warsaw and Kielce Voivodships. Most patients were laborers from urban areas. There has been a remarkable increase in patients during the last few years. In 1947 on an average of four to six patients were admitted daily. In 1954 about 20 patients were admitted each day and five to eight refused admission or told to return at a later date. This increase in patients has been caused by the difficult conditions under which the Poles live.

in comparison with prewar years there were fewer cases of paresis than formerly but a considerable increase in psychoalcoholic patients. About two-thirds of the patients stayed in the hospital for more than a year, some stayed for a shorter length of time, and others stayed for such long periods they could be

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regarded as residents. Those who, after neurological or psychiatric treatment, showed no improvement but could not be sent home because of housing or financial problems were in this category. This situation reduced the number of beds for patients who stayed from about six weeks to one year to 350. To relieve this congestion, groups of 100 to 150 patients with chronic diseases were sent twice yearly, upon the approval of the Ministry of Health, to provincial hospitals with more space.

- 17. All doctors employed at the hospital worked seven hours daily; the auxiliary personnel worked eight. The ward attendants were on 24-hour shifts. Certain doctors worked longer hours when necessary and, if overtime was approved, they were paid for it. The doctors were permitted to adjust their working hours and usually worked from 0800 to 1500 hours. Examinations and treatment generally took place before noon. The auxiliary personnel worked from 0700 to 1200 and from 1300 to 1600 hours. After 1600 hours only specially ordered treatment was given and all urgent cases were handled by the doctor on duty.
- 18. Among the 18 doctors employed in the psychiatric sections, three were over 60 years of age and were not very efficient doctors. Three were between 38 and 55 years of age with at least seven years of experience. Some of the younger doctors were not particularly gifted and gained less experience than could be expected because of the lack of leadership. Each senior doctor was in charge of about 100 patients; junior doctors were in charge of from 50 to 60. Because of this not much time was spent in examining individual patients. Sometimes examinations were superficial and resulted in inaccurate diagnoses. Only two of these doctors were really interested in scientific research beyond attending meetings of the Psychiatric Society or annual conferences of psychiatrists.
- 19. Doctors were also required to attend court proceedings in Warsaw as psychiatric experts. Two doctors had to attend at least four times a week. The doctors took turns in performing this duty. It was regarded as an annoyance because it kept them from their work.
- 20. The living conditions of doctors and auxiliary personnel were difficult. This was particularly true for auxiliary personnel. Wages were low and inadequate for the necessities of life. Husbands, wives, and adult children all worked to provide for their families. Some of the auxiliary and administrative personnel had jobs outside the hospital in addition to hospital employment. One male nurse, for example, worked as a mechanic in a nearby garage. Some of the attendants owned small farms in the neighborhood and looked upon hospital employment as a supplement to their income. Craftsmen, such as tailors and shoemakers, employed at the hospital workshops earned additional money by filling orders after working hours. They often used hospital materials and equipment and even the assistance of patients. Women attendants earned extra money by knitting.
- 21. Housing was the greatest problem of every family. There were only a few apartment buildings attached to the hospital. As a rule, a family was assigned one room. At best, a family was assigned one one room and kitchen. Apartments and rooms were assigned by a housing commission composed of representatives of the administrative branch of the hospital, the trade union, and the PZPR. On an average three to four persons lived in one room. Married couples were often

more crowded because, in addition to children, other relatives stayed with them. Three or four single persons - attendants, nurses, etc. - were usually assigned to one room. The majority of employees ate in the hospital canteen; some took the food for patients without making payment. Some ward attendants earned extra money by performing additional duties for patients after working hours and were paid for it by the families of the patients. The amount earned was usually about four zlotys per hour.

- 22. The supply of drugs and medicaments most necessary was sufficient but there were occasional shortages. For example, in April 1954, the hospital pharmacy informed the sections that there was no more Vitamin B and C available. At the same time a restriction on glucose was ordered because the hospital had only enough for three months and did not expect a new supply. There was no crystallic glucose in the pharmacy from which liquid glucose could be prepared. Other drugs were administered in restricted amounts. Penicillin was issued in amounts not exceeding 1,000,000 units for one patient and the prescription submitted with a written diagnosis had to be signed by the director of the hospital. There was no streptomycin in the pharmacy and it could only be obtained from the voivodship department of health service. The insulin used was of Polish and Russian origin and about 10% was not useable. The Russian insulin was usually too old. Sometimes the expiration date on the bottle had been changed to a later date. However, bad insulin could be exchanged for good in the pharmacy. There was no phenobarbital, no medicaments for intravenous injections, and often no sulfanilamide.
- 23. The following social and political organizations existed at the hospital:
 - a. Basic Party Organization of the PZPR (Podstawowa Organizacja Partyjna POP). The POP was most active and its influence was felt in every phase of hospital life.

director and three medical doctors were members and
about six per cent of all employees were. One of the nurses was the first secretary of the Party and an electrician was second secretary. The POP often held secret meetings and organized political training. It also gave weekly lectures for non-Party members who were selected to attend.

complaints from Party members that meetings and training took too much of their free time. Non-Party persons were induced to become members and certain ones agreed because they were afraid of losing their jobs.

b. The Union of Polish Youth (ZMP). Probably about 20% of the young hospital employees (up to 25 years of age) were members of the ZMP.

all members were not actually Communists. Many joined for opportunistic reasons.

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	C.	The Trade Union for Health Service Employees (Zwiazek Zawodowy Pracownikow Sluzby Zdrowia). The trade union membership fee (about one per cent of an employee's salary) was regarded by everyone as a compulsory tribute because the trade union did not concern itself greatly with the well-being of the employees. Instead it exerted additional control.	•			
	d.	The Women's League (Liga Kobiet). All women employees were forced to join this league. They were not active beyond certain interests in the nursery and kindergarten.	1			
***	e.	The Polish-Soviet Friendship Society. This was a "paper" organization. Everyone had to pay a yearly membership fee of about three zlotys. Activities of the organization were limited to a meeting on the anniversary of the Russian October Revolution.				
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. 3 E	nclo	sures.				
	1.	Pinpoint Location of the State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, Pruszkow				

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Sketch of the State Hospital Area

3. Organizational Chart of the State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, Pruszkow

2.

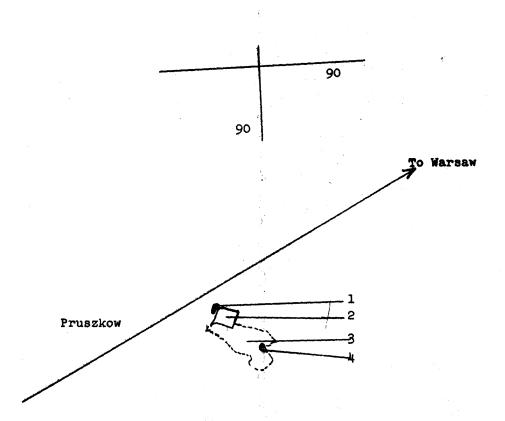
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Enclosure 1

Pinpoint location of State Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders in Pruszkow near Warsaw. /Overlay based on map Poland 1:100,000,

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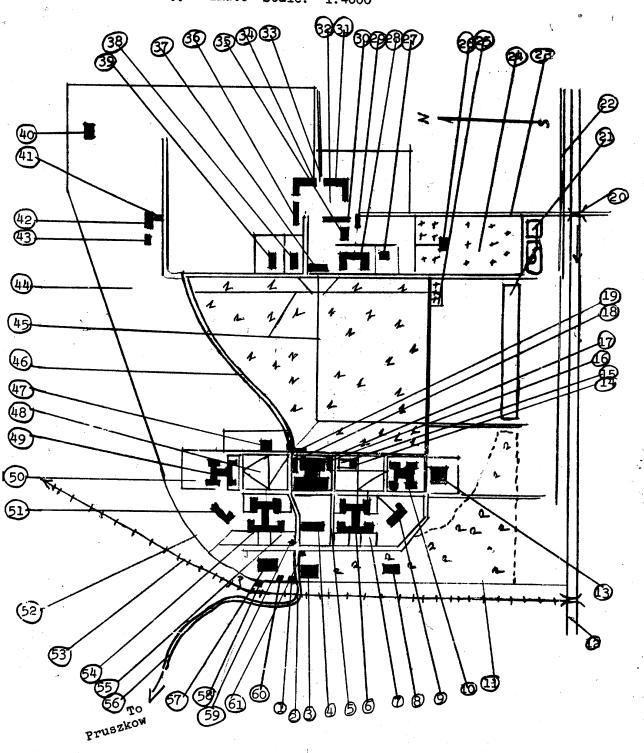
LEGEND:

- 1 Four apartment houses for employees.
- 2 Fenced area within which all buildings of the hospital are located.
- 3 Estate belonging to the hospital (fields under cultivation, meadows, fishponds).
- 4 Farm buildings of the hospital estate and quarters for about 40 patients employed at the farm.

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Enclosure 2

Sketch of the State Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders in Pruszkow. Approximate Scale: 1:4000



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LEGEND TO ENCLOSURE II

Sketch of the State Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders in Pruszkow.

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- 1. Small two-story gatehouse, about eight by eight meters. The gate was guarded by one attendant. All traffic passed this gatehouse in order to enter the hospital grounds. The northern part of the gatehouse was used as a grocery cooperative for employees and patients of the State Hospital.
- 2. Main gate.
- 3. Administrative building, three-story, about 30 x 30 m. Reception room, hospital office, offices of the director and vice-directors, and the porter's office were located on the ground floor of this building. There was an analytical laboratory, a conference room, and the private apartments of the director and three doctors on the second floor. The third floor was used for apartments for doctors.
- 4. Red brick building, three-story, about 10 x 35 m., used for apart-ments for doctors and other hospital employees.
- 5. Road about three meters wide. All roads on the hospital grounds were of this width except the main road, (pt. 46 below,) which was about five meters wide.
- 6. Pavilion I. Large, "H"-Shaped, two-story red brick building which housed the psychiatric section for men. The criminal section was in the southwest wing.
- 7. Garden, surrounded by a high wall, used by the criminal psychiatric's section.

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- 8. Hospital chapel.
- 9. Pavilion V. Two-story red brick building, about 10 x 30 m., which housed the neurotic section.
- 10. Pavilion III. Two-story red brick building, about 32 x 40 m. The middle section of the building was only one story high. The main entrance was on the north side. This building was occupied by the Psychoneurological Institute.
- 11. Brick wall enclosing hospital grounds, except for the south side which faced the Utrata River.
- 12. Utrata River, about five meters wide, about 80 cm. deep, and properly channeled.
- 13. Pavilion IX. Two-story building with white stuccoed walls, about 20 x 25 m. Housed the neurological section. This building was enclosed by a brick wall.
- 14. Small one-story wooden house, about 6 x 12m., used as private apartment.
- 15. Place for storage of coal, surrounded by brick wall.
- 16. One-story brick building, about 12 x 18 m., used for food storage. This building contained a refrigeration system.

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- 17. Large red brick building, about 40 x 45 m. The western part had three stories and the eastern part was one story high. The western part contained the kitchen and storage pantries; the northwestern part contained facilities for laundry and shoe and tailor workshops. A square water tower was located in the middle section. Boilers (with a high chimney) were located in the eastern part of the building. The cabinet making and locksmith shops and the material storage rooms were also located here.
- 18. One-story red brick building, about 12 x 18 m., used for storage of administrative supplies and civilian clothing.
- 19. One-story wooden building, about 8 x 15 m. This building housed a painting workshop, plumbing workshop, and the glaziery.
- 20. Bridge across the Utrata River with a road leading to the hospital fish ponds and the Pecice farm. The bridge has a wooden gate with a lock to prevent patients from crossing it.
- 21. Ponds in hospital park.
- 22. Road leading to the village of Malicha.
- 23. Road leading to hospital farm buildings.
- 24. Hospital cemetery.
- 25. Small cemetery for soldiers killed in 1939.
- 26. Autopsy room and hospital mortuary. One-story red brick building, about 7 x 10 m.
- 27. One-story wooden building used as an apartment.
- 28. Pavilion VII. Side wings are one story, red brick. The main section is two story and is of white stucco. This building housed the section for working patients.
- 29. One-story wooden building, about 5 x 20 m., used for apartments.
- 30, 31, 34. One-story brick buildings which were used as the barn, stables, pigsty, and granary.
- 32. Farmyard.
- 33. Farmyard gate. Always kept closed.
- 35. One-story brick building, about 10 x 25 m., housing about 30 working patients.
- 36. Hospital garages.
- 37. Two-story red brick building, about 12 x 25 m., used for apartments.
- 38. One-story red brick building, about 10 x 23 m., used as dormitories for doctors attending neurological and psychiatric courses at the Psychoneurological Institute.
- 39. Pavilion VIII. One-story red brick building housing the psychiatric section for children.
- 40. One-story wooden building, about 7 x 20 m. Used as apartments for two families.

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- 41. Hothouses where flowers and early vegetables were grown.
- 42. Two-story brick building of white stucco, about 8 x 20 m., gardener's apartment and storage space located here.
- 43. One-story wooden house, about 5 x 12 m., used as gardening administrative office.
- 44. Vegetable and fruit garden enclosed by brick wall on north and west sides and by wire fence on the east and south sides.
- 45. Path through pine woods. Both sections of the woods were enclosed by barbed wire.
- 46. Main road leading from main gate to the gardens and farm.
- 47. Two-story brick building, about 15 x 18 m. Housed nursery, kinder-garten, the western part was used as the hospital pharmacy.
- 48. Lawn with footpaths.
- 49. Pavilion IV. Partly one and partly two-story red brick building, about 32 x 40 m., occupied by men's section of the psychiatric clinic.
- 50. Small garden for patients enclosed by a brick wall about two meters high.
- 51. Pavilion VI. Two-story red brick building occupied by the women's section of the psychiatric clinic.
- 52. Bříčk wall about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. high enclosing the hospital grounds on the north and west sides.
- 53. Track for electric railway.
- 54. Pavilion II. Two-story red brick building, about 40 x 40 m. Wings were one-story. Main entrance on east side. Housed psychiatric section for women. There was also a surgery, an X-ray laboratory, and a dental office.
- 55. Small garden for patients.
- 56. Main road to the town of Pruszkow, called Partisan Street.
- 57. Two-story building with white stucco walls, about 25 x 30 m., called "House of Culture" and containing a theater, library, cafeteria for hospital employees, and the PZPR office on the first floor, and apartments on the second floor.
- 58. Stop for electric railway and ticket office.
- 59. Garage.
- 60. Garage.
- 61. Small red brick building, 5 x 6 m., housing dispensary for hospital employees.

